

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 1-18 are pending. Claim 12 is amended and claims 16-18 are added.

Claim 12 is amended to delete the phrase "in particular" and related language in order to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112. Claim 12 is not amended to distinguish over the prior art.

Claims 1 and 3-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Henderson. Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Henderson. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Henderson does not disclose or suggest a clip hook which is pressed into a first bore while being deformed as claimed in claims 1 and 12. By contrast, Henderson discloses a mounting bracket 10 for fastening an inflatable curtain 12 to the interior of a vehicle. The mounting bracket 10 includes a pair of attachment plates 14 that are configured for engaging respective opposing surfaces 16, 18 of the inflatable curtain 12. The second attachment plate 30 includes two orifices, which receive two locking tabs 26 of the first attachment plate 24. The locking tabs 26, when positioned within the receiving orifices 32, may be bent over to secure the inflatable curtain within the mounting bracket 10. The locking tabs are bent after they are inserted into the

orifices. Therefore, the locking tabs in Henderson are not pressed into the orifices while being deformed.

Further, Henderson does not disclose or suggest that the detent connection piece snaps in and engages behind a bearing edge framing the first bore as claimed in claims 1 and 12. Merriam-Webster's Online dictionary defines snap as "to close or fit in place with an abrupt movement or sharp sound". By contrast, the locking tabs 26 are simply bent over the edges of the orifices to secure the inflatable curtain 12 within the mounting bracket 10. Henderson fails to disclose or suggest any abrupt movement or sharp sound of the locking tabs 26 upon being bent over to secure the inflatable curtain within the mounting bracket 10. Therefore, claims 1 and 12 are allowable. Claims 1-11 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable as depending from an allowable claim and for the specific features recited therein. Claims 13-15 depend from claim 12 and are therefore allowable as depending from an allowable claim and for the specific features recited therein.

In addition to the above-mentioned reasons for the allowance of claim 2, the Office Action cites no reference disclosing that the detent connection piece is formed from a spring steel sheet. Instead, the office action relies solely on the Examiner's personal knowledge that Henderson, when modified, would have the detent connection piece be formed from a spring steel sheet. Applicant, at this time and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.104(d)(2), requests an affidavit of the Examiner to support the Examiner's statement. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 2 is

improper and allowance of claim 2 is respectfully requested for this additional reason.

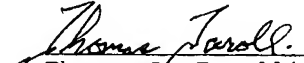
New claim 16, which depends on claim 1, should be allowed for the same reasons as claim 1 and also for the additional feature that the clip hook deforms to allow the clip hook to be fully introduced into the first bore. Henderson does not disclose or suggest a clip hook that deforms to allow the clip hook to be fully introduced into the first bore. Therefore, claim 16 is allowable.

New claim 17, which depends from claim 16 should be allowed for the same reasons as claim 17 and also for the additional feature that the clip hook undeforms to allow the detent connection piece to snap in and engage behind a bearing edge. Henderson does not disclose or suggest a clip hook that undeforms to allow the detent connection piece to snap in and engage behind the bearing edge. Therefore, claim 17 is allowable.

New claim 18 recites a detent connection system for fastening a gas bag module to a body section of a vehicle. The gas bag module comprises a detent connection piece having a clip hook. The clip hook is pressed into a first bore of the body section while being deformed until the detent connection piece snaps in and engages behind a bearing edge framing the first bore. The detent connection piece additionally includes an end section which is inserted into a second bore of the body section. Neither Henderson nor any of the cited prior art disclose or suggest all of the claimed features of claim 18. Therefore, claim 18 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the amendment be entered and the application allowed. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,


Thomas W. Tarolli
Reg. No. 20,177

TAROLLI, SUNDHEIM, COVELL,
& TUMMINO L.L.P.
1300 East Ninth Street, Suite 1700
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1400
Phone: (216) 621-2234
Fax: (216) 621-4072
Customer No.: 26,294